

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7235

S E C R E T CAIRO 10359

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY OSCI EG

SUBJECT: BOYCOTT PROVISION OF Wafa-Wa-Amal Contract with Perkins
AND WILL

REF: CAIRO 10350, PARA 5

1. AS WILL BE NOTED FROM REFTEL, EGYPTIANS INCLUDED A
BOYCOTT PROVISIO IN Wafa-Wa-Amal Contract.

2. SINCE I WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AT THE TIME I TALKED
WITH MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AISHA RATEB THIS MORNING
(CAIRO 10340), I TELPHONED HER AT HER HOME THIS AFTERNOON
TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN OVER THE INCLUSION OF BOYCOTT
LANGUAGE. SPEAKING AS A FREIND AND AS ONE WHO WANTS TO
HELP, I CAUTIONED THAT INCLUSION OF SUCH LANGUAGE IN THE
CONTRACT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR EFFORTS TO GET
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT.

3. SHE HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT FOCUSSED ON THIS MATTER AND HAD
TAKEN IT AS A ROUTINE AFFAIR. SHE ASKED WHAT OUGHT
TO BE DONE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I SUGGESTED THAT SHE
MENTION TO MRS. SADAT THIS EVENING THE DESIRABILITY OF
DELETING THE BOYCOTT LANGUAGE FROM THE CONTRACT. I
POINTED OUT THAT PERSON WILL BE HERE UNTIL TOMORROW
MORNING AND THAT, IF MRS. SADAT CAN SEE HER WAY CLEAR TO
DELETING THAT LANGUAGE, IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE BASIC CONTRACT. A SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED MINISTER

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RATEB UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY MY COMMENTS TO MRS. SADAT.

4. I HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MR. PERSON, THE CONTRACTING OFFICER OF PERKINS AND WILL, AND RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH HIM. FIRM APPARENTLY HAS NOT DONE ANY WORK IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND, SINCE IT DOES NO WORK IN ISRAEL, ACCEPTED BOYCOTT PROVISIO AS MEANINGLESS. I POINTED OUT STRONG CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO AMERICAN FIRMS COOPERATING WITH ARAB BOYCOTT, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, AND SUGGESTED HIS FIRM'S LAWYERS CONTACT DEPT OF COMMERCE TO CHECK IF THEY HAVE A REPORTING REQUIREMENT. I ALSO TOLD HIM OF MY RECOMMENDATION TO MINISTER RATEB AND THAT HE MIGHT HEAR FROM HER ON THIS MATTER.

5. COMMENT: I HOPE MRS. SADAT WILL SEE HER WAY CLEAR TO DELETING LAGUAGE. OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE REAL PROBLEMS.
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